



California State Fire Training

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James H. Shern, Fire Academy El Camino College, Compton Educational Center Accredited Regional Training Program Site Visit Report

March 16, 2012

Accreditation Team

Rich Thomas, STEAC Representative
Tomas Turner, Fire Technology Directors
Rodney Slaughter, State Fire Training

Executive Summary

The accreditation team recommends that James H. Shern Fire Academy at El Camino College Compton Center becomes an extension of the accredited academy already in place at El Camino College. Currently, the James Shern Fire Academy does not meet the minimum State Fire Training criteria for accreditation as its own entity.

Program Review

Accreditation team members were provided a copy of the James H. Shern self-assessment report prior to the March 6, 2012 site visit for review. The site team met with:

Jon Thompson, Compton Fire Chief,
Bryan Batiste, Deputy Chief,
Mark Smith, Captain,
Byron L. Smith, Pastor, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Compton.
Dr. Rodney Murray, Dean of Vocational Education, Compton Center,

An off-site meeting was held on March 12 in Sacramento with Dr. Stephanie Rodriguez, Dean of Industry and Technology, El Camino College and Rodney Slaughter of the State Fire Marshal's Office.



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Since August 2006, when Compton College lost its college accreditation, educational programs have continued through a partnership with El Camino College. Based on the uncertainties of Compton College District, the Compton Fire Department would like to reestablish the James Shern Firefighter Academy under El Camino College.

The site team was very impressed with the level of commitment and dedication that the Compton Fire Department has towards recruitment and training of local students into the fire service. The team recognized that this part-time fire academy will serve as an effective community out reach program by recruiting under-represented populations into public safety careers.

The site team was taken on a tour of the training center facilities and the facilities at El Camino College's, Compton Center. The training room at the Compton Fire Department does not have room for more than 20 students—however the Compton Center does have adequate classroom facilities. It did not appear that there was enough serviceable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to outfit an academy class. Other issues with the James H. Shern as an Accredited Regional Training Program include:

1. There is no written memorandum of understanding between the Compton Community College District and El Camino College District specific to the start-up of the James H. Shern Fire Academy (§4.04 SFT Procedures Manual).
2. There is no Instructional Service Agreement between El Camino College and the Compton Fire Department for the use of the training facilities (§4.04 SFT Procedures Manual).
3. There was no formal job market study or analysis conducted by El Camino College to justify the existence of another accredited fire academy in the region (§4.03 SFT Procedures Manual).
4. The James H. Shern Fire Advisory Committee consists of Compton Fire Department personnel, Compton Center Dean of Vocational Education, and a local pastor. El Camino College, Compton Center needs to enhance the participation of surrounding fire departments and/or the Compton Fire Department needs to participate fully in the El Camino College Fire Advisory Committee (§4.05 SFT Procedures Manual).